

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-14

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INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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R 131039Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4300

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT MARCOS

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN LARGELY RHETORICAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS BEFORE RAINSOAKED AUDIENCE, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED NEW POLICIES PRESCRIBING ALIENATION OF PUBLIC LANDS AND CALLING FOR GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF ALL LAND USE, SEVERAL PROGRAMS FOR MINORITY GROUPS AND CALLING OF BARANGAYS SEPT 1 FOR CITIZENS TO PRESENT EVIDENCE AGAINST CORRUPT AND ABUSIVE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. NEW PROGRAMS FOR MINORITY GROUPS - CREATION OF SPECIAL MINORITY GROUP MILITARY UNIT, CALLING OF BARANGAYS IN MINORITY GROUP AREAS TO ELECT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND REITERATION OF OFFER OF AMNESTY FOR REBELS - WILL PROBABLY HAVE ONLY MARGINAL EFFECTS ON MUSLIM REBELLION BUT PRESUMABLY ARE INTENDED TO HAVE PROPAGANDA VALUE AT FORTHCOMING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE (DATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM 1896 RATHER THAN 1946) WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY TRADI-

TIONAL MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PARADE IN MANILA AND SPEECH BY PRESIDENT MARCOS. HEAVY RAINSHOWERS BEGAN AS PRESIDENT ARRIVED, DRENCHING MARCHERS AND ONLOOKERS AND FORCING MARCOS TO ABBREVIATE SEVERELY HIS PREPARED SPEECH. FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF MARCOS' SPEECH REFLECTS TEXT PUBLISHED IN JUNE 13 NEWSPAPERS. HIS ACTUAL DELIVERY, IN ENGLISH AND TAGALOG, DEPARTED SUBSTANTIALLY IN LENGTH, SUBSTANCE AND ORDER FROM PUBLISHED TEXT.

2. LAND POLICY. ANNOUNCING NEW POLICY OF "LAND DEMOCRACY," MARCOS SAID HE REJECTED BOTH SOCIALISM AND UNLIMITED FREE ENTERPRISE AND LISTED SEVEN PRINCIPLES APPLYING TO DISPOSITION AND UTILIZATION OF LAND. HE DECLARED THAT ALL ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE PUBLIC LANDS CAN ONLY BE LEASED AND NO LONGER SOLD TO PRIVATE PERSONS. PRIVATE LANDS CANNOT BE DEVELOPED OR ALTERED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF GOVERNMENT. SALE OF PRIVATE LAND SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT. PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF LAND SHALL BE RECOGNIZED, AND PRIVATE LANDS WILL NOT BE EXPROPRIATED EXCEPT FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES. MARCOS ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LAND DEVELOPMENT TO ADMINISTER THESE LAND POLICIES.

3. MINORITY QUESTIONS. MARCOS ANNOUNCED THREE NEW PROGRAMS FOR MINORITY GROUPS, PRINCIPALLY DIRECTED AT REBELLIOUS MUSLIMS. FIRST, HE ANNOUNCED THE GRANTING OF "COMPLETE AND FULL" AMNESTY TO "ALL THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN UP ARMS AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES BUT WHO ARE NOW READY TO ASSUME THE BURDENS OF CITIZENSHIP AND LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS." MARCOS SAID HE WAS CREATING A COMMISSION ON CONCILIATION COMPOSED OF MAJORITY (I.E. CHRISTIAN) AND MINORITY GROUP MEMBERS TO ADMINISTER AMNESTY PROGRAM. SECOND, HE ANNOUNCED THAT A SPECIAL MILITARY UNIT RECRUITED FROM THE CULTURAL MINORITY GROUPS, WOULD BE ORGANIZED, AND HE RECALLED TO ACTIVE SERVICE RETIRED BRIG. GEN. MAMARINTA LAO, HIGHEST RANKING MUSLIM OFFICER IN PHIL ARMED FORCES, TO HEAD THE UNIT. THIRD, HE DIRECTED THAT BARANGAYS BE ORGANIZED IN MINORITY AREAS AND MEET TO ELECT THEIR OWN "LOCAL AND NATIONAL". OFFICIALS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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4. BARANGAY MEETINGS. STATING THAT "CORRUPTION HAS SEEPED BACK INTO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR... ON THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL," MARCOS CALLED FOR BARANGAYS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY TO MEET ON SEPT 1. AT THESE MEETINGS, CITIZENS WILL BE ASKED TO IDENTIFY AND PROVIDE EVIDENCE AGAINST ANY DISHONEST OR ABUSIVE ELECTED OFFICIAL OR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

5. COMMENT: NEW POLICIES FORBIDDING ALIENATION OF PUBLIC LANDS AND REGULATING LAND UTILIZATION PRESAGE SOME NEW FORM OF LAND CLASSIFICATION. HOWEVER, UNTIL THESE POLICIES ARE SPelt OUT IN GREATER DETAIL, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO SPECULATE ON THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN PHILIPPINES. PERTINENT SECTION OF SPEECH AND COMMENTS WILL FOLLOW.

6. NEW PROGRAMS FOR MINORITY GROUPS ARE USEFUL BUT UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY FUNDAMENTAL EFFECT ON CONTINUING MUSLIM REBELLION IN THE SOUTH. AMNESTY FOR COMMUNIST AND OTHER REBELS WAS OFFERED FOR LIMITED PERIODS IN 1972 AND 1973 BUT WAS NOT GENERALLY AVailed OF. LATEST AMNESTY ANNOUNCEMENT APPEARS TO BE BROADER, MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED, AND LESS CONDITIONAL THAN EARLIER OFFERS AND IS REMINISCENT OF GENERAL AMNESTY GRANTED HUKS BY PRESIDENT MAGSAYSAY IN 1950S. BUT WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE HOW PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED AND WHAT REACTION OF HARDCORE REBELS WILL BE BEFORE ITS EFFECT CAN BE JUDGED. CREATION OF SPECIAL MINORITY GROUP MILITARY UNIT AND HOLDING OF LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MINORITY AREAS RESPOND TO TWO OF NUMEROUS SUGGESTIONS MADE RECENTLY TO PRESIDENT BY TRADITIONAL MUSLIM LEADERS, BUT AGAIN MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED WILL DETERMINE THEIR VALUE. MINORITY PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED AT THIS TIME HAVE OBVIOUS RELEVANCE TO UPCOMING ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE.

7. CALLING OF BARANGAY MEETINGS REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S CONCERN WITH INCREASING REPORTS OF RESURGENT CORRUPTION. THIS CONCERN HAS RECENTLY BEEN EVIDENT IN RENEWED WARNINGS BY DEFENSE SECRETARY ENRILE AGAINST "BACKSLIDING" AND RECENT SUSPENSION OF SIX MUNICIPAL MAYORS FOR VARIOUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INFRACTIONS AND ARREST BY MILITARY OF NINE MANILA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING FOUR MANILA CITY COUNCILORS, FOR ATTEMPTED EXTORTION. IT IS UNCLEAR HOW "PEOPLES' COURT" CONCEPT WILL WORK IN PRACTICE, BUT IT WILL PRESUMABLY PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY FOR GOVERNMENT TO ENGINEER DISMISSAL OF MOST CORRUPT OFFICIALS AND PUBLICLY PUTS ALL LOCAL OFFICIALS ON NOTICE. AT SAME TIME, IT HELPS POSTPONE ONCE AGAIN THE STICKY QUESTION OF ELECTIONS.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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